

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

The resignation of Professor Wayne Wheeler, who had founded the Bulletin of the CMVASA and edited it for two years, was a heavy blow to our chapter, for the Bulletin had become a valuable tie in our rather loose organization. His resignation, in fact, forced the Executive Committee to act on a proposal, laid before it by Professor Wheeler and Professor Jerzy Hauptmann, to enlarge the scope of the Bulletin.

At the Fall meeting of the Executive Committee, Professor Wheeler's resignation was reluctantly accepted, and the Committee accepted the suggestion of your President that the Bulletin be located at The University of Kansas under the editorship of Dr. Stuart Levine, of the Department of English and the Major in American Civilization. A request for support was submitted to the University, and through the kind offices of Professor W. P. Albrecht, Chairman of the Department of English, and Dean George R. Waggoner of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, a grant of funds for one issue was generously made by the University of Kansas Endowment Association. Because of the shortness of time and limitation of funds available, it was decided to publish only one issue in 1959-1960 of an enlarged Bulletin under a new title. The Editorial Board plans to resume next year the policy of semi-annual publication. In what we hope will be the not-too-distant future we may attain to a printed format, perhaps an expansion in size, and even quarterly publication. Through our association with The University of Kansas an international circulation to libraries has been assured, and, in general, the future seems prosperous.

The policy of the Journal will be to publish interdisciplinary studies of American culture, although an occasional article of general interest to "civilizationers," even though it is restricted to one discipline, will certainly be welcome. The emphasis in subject matter will be regional in the sense of Middle Western, but we do not intend to exclude articles of a more general nature and we may even trench into other regions. We intend also to continue the publication, so happily begun in this issue, of articles on the resources of special research institutions in our field. Our members are asked to submit suggestions for such studies. Our special issue on Mark Twain will contain such an article on the Mark Twain Museum in Hartford.

Although this issue is not unrepresentative of the hopes of the Editorial Board, we hope that the concentration of historical and literary articles will be varied by contributions from art historians, folklorists, geographers, and other specialists. One anomaly has unexpectedly appeared. Almost no articles were submitted by members of the chapter. One can only hope that our membership is allowing its ideas to ripen, for the vitality and usefulness of the Journal are in the hands of the chapter members.

I should particularly like to take the opportunity to pay tribute to the energy and imagination of Dr. Levine, who, in a remarkably short time, has carried through all the heavy and perplexing tasks of publisher and editor. The present issue is evidence of his success.

Edward F. Grier